

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-14 INR-10 HA-05
PA-02 /064 W

-----084160 221436Z /43

O 221156Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO USINFO WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7936
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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FOR IOP/M

FOR IBS/PA, FOR IPS/PA

STATE FOR AF, AF/E AND AF/S

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

JIDDA FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY MOOSE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: -

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR ANDREW YOUNG AIRPORT NEWS CONFERENCE

LUSAKA, MARCH 22 -- AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS
ANDREW YOUNG, ARRIVED HERE TODAY FROM TANZANIA AND SAID HE WAS
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IN THE ZAMBIAN CAPITAL TO DO MORE LISTENING THAN TALKING.

HE TOLD LOCAL AND FOREIGN JOURNALISTS ON HIS ARRIVAL: "I AM
IN MUCH MORE A LISTENING ROLE THAN I AM IN COMING TO PROMOTE
ANY PARTICULAR IDEA OR PROGRAM."

HE DESCRIBED THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTED

IN SALISBURY YESTERDAY AS BEING "LESS THAN GENUINE" AND DECLARED THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS STILL COMMITTED TO FINDING A WAY TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA THAT BROUGHT AN END TO THE FIGHTING AND REPLACED IT WITH GENUINE MAJORITY RULE.

IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ABOUT THE U.S. GOVERNMENT'S POSITION REGARDING THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT, AMBASSADOR YOUNG REPLIED: "OUR GOVERNMENT'S POSITION IS THAT THIS IS SOMETHING LESS THAN GENUINE MAJORITY RULE AND IT DOES NOT REPRESENT ALL THE PARTIES CONCERNED, WILL NOT PUT AN END TO THE FIGHTING AND THAT WE ARE STILL COMMITTED TO FINDING A WAY TO BRING ABOUT A SETTLEMENT IN RHODESIA WHICH DOES PUT AN END TO THE FIGHTING AND BRING ABOUT A GENUINE SITUATION WHERE POWER IS TRANSFERRED FROM THE MINORITY TO THE MAJORITY."

IN ANSWER TO ANOTHER QUESTION, MR. YOUNG SAID HE HAD "NO INTENTION" OR ANY PLANS TO VISIT RHODESIA DURING HIS CURRENT TRIP.

BUT HE CONFIRMED THAT HE WILL BE MEETING WITH PATRIOTIC FRONT CO-LEADER, JOSHUA NKOMO, ZAMBIAN PRESIDENT KENNETH KAUNDA AND SWAPO LEADER, SAM NUJOMA. HE SAID HE WAS IN LUSAKA PRIMARILY FOR THE U.N. COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA CURRENTLY MEETING HERE.

"I WILL BE TALKING WITH MR. NKOMO, BUT I AM NOT BRINGING ANY PROPOSALS FROM ANYBODY ABOUT ANYTHING. I AM HERE FOR THE COUNCIL
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ON NAMIBIA AND TO CONSULT WITH PRESIDENT KAUNDA AND MR. NKOMO AND MR. SAM NUJOMA. I AM IN MUCH MORE A LISTENING ROLE THAN I AM IN COMING TO PROMOTE ANY PARTICULAR IDEA OR PROGRAM," AMBASSADOR YOUNG SAID WHEN ASKED TO COMMENT ON YESTERDAY'S SUGGESTION BY MR. NKOMO ABOUT THE NECESSITY OF RECONVENING THE MALTA MEETING.

PRESSED FOR HIS REACTION ON THE PATRIOTIC FRONT'S STAND THAT THE MALTA MEETING BE RECONVENED BEFORE THERE IS ANY TALK OF A WIDER CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, THE AMERICAN ENVOY REPLIED: "I THINK THAT SINCE WE ARE WORKING WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM ON THAT I PROBABLY SHOULD NOT GIVE VIEWS SEPARATE FROM THEIRS, AND I THINK THAT THE DETAILS OF HOW MALTA OR ANY LARGER CONFERENCE WILL BE RECONVENED HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT, I THINK, WITH THE BRITISH,

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BUT ALSO IN CONSULTATION WITH THE FRONTLINE PRESIDENTS, THE PATRIOTIC
FRON AND PRESUMABLY PEOPLE IN SALISBURY. THE FACT THAT EVERYBODY
DOES WANT TO CONTINUE TALKING AND THAT THERE IS SO MUCH DISCUSSION
GOING ON ABOUT A PROCESS WHICH WOULD PUT AN END TO THE FIGHTING
AND BRING ABOUT MAJORITY RULE, I WOULD SAY, IS ENCOURAGING."

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PRESSED FURTHER ON THE QUESTION OF THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT,
MR. YOUNG SAID HE DID NOT THINK THE SETTLEMENT WOULD WORK,
BUT EXPLAINED THAT ON THE OTHER HAND IT ALL DEPENDED ON THE
PEOPLE OF ZIMBABWE THEMSELVES.

"IT'S NOT FOR ME TO DECIDE WHAT THEY (RHODESIANS) WANT. THEY CAN
COUNT ON VERY LITTLE, IF ANY SUPPORT FROM THE UNITED STATES. AND
AT BEST, I THINK, THERE WOULD BE A KIND OF 'HANDS-OFF' POLICY

AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED," HE SAID IN REFERENCE TO
THE INTERNAL SETTLEMENT.

SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSING THE NAMIBIAN PROBLEM, AMBASSADOR YOUNG
SAID THE FIVE WESTERN NATIONS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CAME
"VERY CLOSE" (TO AN AGREEMENT) IN THE PROXIMITY TALKS HELD IN
NEW YORK.

ASKED WHERE THE NAMIBIA TALKS ARE AT PRESENT, HE SAID: "I THINK
PERHAPS WE ARE A LOT CLOSER THAN MANY PEOPLE REALIZE. THERE
STILL ARE SOME BASIC DIFFERENCES, BUT I DON'T THINK THOSE
DIFFERENCES ARE INSURMOUNTABLE. AND THERE ARE PROBLEMS ON BOTH
SIDES. I WOULD LIKE TO SEE US FIND A WAY TO BRIDGE THOSE

:

REMAINING PROBLEMS AND MOVE ON, AND I AM HERE TO EXPLORE THE
POSSIBILITIES OF DOING THAT."

HE SAID THERE WAS NOT "A GREAT DEAL MORE TO TALK ABOUT"
REGARDING THE NAMIBIA QUESTION AND THAT "EVERYBODY NOW KNOWS
WHERE EVERYBODY ELSE STANDS." HE SAID THE PROBLEM NOW IS TO MOVE
BEYOND TALKING TO ACTION. "OUR CONCERN IS THAT EVERYBODY
UNDERSTAND WHERE THE TALKS ARE. WE HAVE HAD A VERY COMPLETED
PROCESS AND THERE HAVE BEEN MANY CLARIFICATIONS OF POSITIONS
AND MANY QUESTIONS ASKED. I THINK MY CONCERN IS THAT THERE
BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING ON EITHER SIDE, BUT ESSENTIALLY, I
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THINK IT IS PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD THE PROPOSALS OF THE FIVE
WESTERN POWERS DO REPRESENT A POSSIBILITY TO BRING ABOUT A
LEGITIMATE TRANSFER OF POWER IN NAMIBIA,"
HE SAID, ADDING THAT HE WAS HERE TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE
PROPOSALS WERE PROPERLY UNDERSTOOD.

MR. YOUNG SAID HE WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT THE
POSSIBILITY OF THE COUNCIL FOR NAMIBIA ASKING THE FIVE WESTERN POWERS
TO DISCONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS BECAUSE OF THEIR SLOW PROGRESS. ITEM
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